20220022143 RECORDED IN PUBLIC RECORDS LEON COUNTY FL BK: 5717 PG: 1956,
03/31/2022 at 03:50 PM,
GWEN MARSHALL, CLERK OF COURTS

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-03

IN RE: CIRCUIT AND COUNTY JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 2020-10, In Re: Circuit Judge and County Judge Assignments, as amended three times, currently sets forth the assignments for the judges of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Rule 2.215(b)(4), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, provides that the Chief Judge shall assign judges to the courts and divisions and shall determine the length of each assignment, it is therefore

ORDERED that Administrative Order 2020-10, as amended, is superseded, and effective July 1, 2022 the new judicial assignments are:

I. FRANKLIN COUNTY.

A. Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases, civil cases, family cases, probate cases, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

B. County Judge J. Gordon Shuler shall be assigned all county court cases and all first appearances.

II. GADSDEN COUNTY.

A. Circuit Judge Ronald W. Flury shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases and juvenile delinquency cases.

B. Circuit Judge David Frank shall be assigned all circuit civil cases, family cases, probate cases, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

C. County Judge Kathy L. Garner shall be assigned all county court cases, first appearances, and serve as primary backup for juvenile delinquency cases.

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III. JEFFERSON COUNTY.

A. Circuit Judge Dawn Caloca-Johnson shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases, civil cases, family cases, probate cases, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

B. County Judge Robert R. Plaines shall be assigned all county court cases and first appearances.

IV. LEON COUNTY.

A. Circuit Court Criminal Division.

1. Division A. Circuit Judge Kevin J. Carroll shall be assigned 25% of all Criminal Division cases.

2. Division B. Circuit Judge Joshua Hawkes shall be assigned 25% of all Criminal Division cases.

3. Division C. Circuit Judge Stephen Everett shall be assigned 25% of all Criminal Division cases.

4. Division D. Circuit Judge Francis J. Allman shall be assigned 25% of all Criminal Division cases.

5. Circuit Judge Francis J. Allman shall be assigned all statewide prosecution cases (Division SW), Leon County Grand Jury duties, and extraordinary and unusual fee requests. He may delegate these duties to other judges in the Leon County Circuit Court Criminal Division as necessary.

B. Circuit Court Civil Division.

1. Division S. Circuit Judge Angela C. Dempsey shall be assigned 33⅓% of all civil cases and civil prisoner petitions.

2. Division U: Circuit Judge Robert R. Wheeler shall be assigned 33⅓% of all civil cases and civil prisoner petitions.

3. Division V: Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh shall be assigned 33⅓% of all civil cases and civil prisoner petitions.

4. Circuit Judge Angela C. Dempsey shall be assigned all appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

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C. Family Division.

1. Division G. Circuit Judge Anthony Miller shall be assigned all matters under Chapter 39, including juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights, all Unified Family Court Section cases as defined and identified pursuant to Administrative Order 2013-08, adoption cases (excluding uncontested adoptions filed under Chapter 63), 15% of all Family Division cases including uncontested adoptions filed under Chapter 63, two protective injunction dockets per month, and an equal rotation as Family Division Duty Judge. Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom is assigned as back-up for all matters under Chapter 39.

2. Division H. Circuit Judge Tiffany Baker-Carper shall be assigned all juvenile delinquency cases, two protective injunction dockets per month, and an equal rotation as Family Division Duty Judge.

3. Division I. Circuit Judge John C. Cooper shall be assigned 35% of all Family Division cases, excluding juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, and termination of parental rights cases, and including uncontested adoptions filed under Chapter 63, five protective injunction dockets per month, and an equal rotation as Family Division Duty Judge.

4. Division J. Circuit Judge Barbara K. Hobbs shall be assigned 35% of all Family Division cases, excluding juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, and termination of parental rights cases, and including uncontested adoptions filed under Chapter 63, five protective injunction dockets per month, and an equal rotation as Family Division Duty Judge.

5. Division K. Circuit Judge Dawn Caloca-Johnson shall be assigned 15% of all Family Division cases, excluding juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, and termination of parental rights cases, and including uncontested adoptions filed under Chapter 63, and two protective injunction dockets per month. Given her half time assignment in Jefferson County and Administrative duties for the Second Circuit, she will serve as duty judge five weeks in a calendar year instead of an equal rotation of 10 weeks in a calendar year.

6. County Judge Assignments.

   a. Leon County Judge Monique Richardson and Leon County Judge Stefanie Newlin shall each be assigned two protective injunction dockets per month.

   b. All simplified dissolution of marriage cases are assigned equally to the Leon County Judges.

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D. Probate Division.

1. Circuit Judge Tiffany Baker-Carper shall be assigned all probate cases, except Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Risk Protection Order proceedings.

2. County Judges Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. and Jason L. Jones shall be assigned all Baker Act and Marchman Act proceedings that come before the court during regular business hours.

3. Leon County judges shall be assigned all risk protection order proceedings as assigned by the administrative judge for the Leon County Court.

E. Leon County Court.

1. County Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. shall be assigned 20% of all County Court cases.

2. County Judge Jason L. Jones shall be assigned 20% of all County Court cases.

3. County Judge Stefanie M. Newlin shall be assigned 20% of all County Court cases.

4. County Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson shall be assigned 20% of all County Court cases.

5. County Judge Monique Richardson shall be assigned 20% of all County Court cases.

V. LIBERTY COUNTY.

A. Circuit Judge Ronald W. Flury shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases and juvenile delinquency cases.

B. Circuit Judge David Frank shall be assigned all circuit civil cases, family cases, probate cases, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

C. County Judge Kenneth L. Hosford shall be assigned all county court cases, and all first appearances.

VI. WAKULLA COUNTY.

A. Circuit Judge J. Layne Smith shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases, civil cases, family cases, probate cases, and appeals from final administrative orders of

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local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

B. County Judge Jill C. Walker shall be assigned all county court cases, all first appearances, and serve as primary backup for juvenile dependency cases.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS.

A. Administrative Judges.

1. The Chief Judge is the administrative officer of the courts within the circuit, rule 2.215(b)(4), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration. Administrative judges are given the authority to assist with the administrative supervision of the designated court or division, which may include establishing duty schedules, developing standardized procedures and forms with input from colleagues, and assigning responsibility for special projects. Administrative judges shall not enter administrative orders but may recommend them to the Chief Judge.

2. Circuit Judge Francis J. Allman shall serve as the circuit-wide administrative judge over circuit court criminal cases.

3. Circuit Judge Angela Dempsey shall serve as the circuit-wide administrative judge over circuit court civil cases. The administrative judge may reassign Leon County Circuit Court Civil Division cases as necessary to ensure equitable assignment.

4. Circuit Judge Dawn Caloca-Johnson shall serve as the circuit-wide administrative judge over circuit court family cases. The administrative judge may reassign Leon County Family Division cases as necessary to ensure equitable assignment, shall issue a separate Leon County Family Division Duty Judge calendar to assign family division duty judge weeks and protective injunction dockets, and has delegated authority to establish, approve and adjust the magistrate and hearing officer assignments.

5. County Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. shall serve as administrative judge for the Leon County Court Criminal and Civil Divisions. The administrative judge shall assign all first appearances, except those on weekend and holiday duty, on a rotating basis.

B. All Leon County Felony Drug Court cases shall be assigned to County Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson.

C. Veterans Treatment Court. All Veterans Treatment Court cases shall be assigned to Leon County Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr.

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D. Leon County Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket. All cases on the Leon County Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket (Division P) shall be assigned to the Leon County Judge designated by the administrative judge for the Leon County Court Criminal and Civil Divisions.

E. Children's Services Council of Leon County. Judge Anthony Miller is appointed to the Children's Services Council of Leon County, pursuant to section 125.901(1)(a) of the Florida Statutes.

F. Circuit-wide Weekend and Holiday Duty Judge.

1. The trial court administrator shall prepare a rotation list designating each circuit and county judge to serve as circuit-wide duty judge on weekends and holidays. The circuit-wide weekend and holiday duty judge shall handle all first appearances for all counties of the Circuit.

2. The circuit-wide weekend and holiday duty judge shall also handle any arrest warrants, search warrants, petitions for injunctions, emergency hearings, or other emergency matters brought to the circuit-wide weekend and holiday duty judge's attention only while the court is convened for the weekend and holiday first appearance hearings.

3. Once weekend and holiday court concludes for the day, Leon County emergency matters shall be addressed by the Leon County Duty Judge. Emergency matters in all other counties of the Circuit shall be addressed in accordance with the provisions of Section VIII, Emergency Hearings.

G. Leon County Duty Judge.

1. In accordance with Administrative Order 2015-04, In Re: Leon County Duty Judge, the Chief Judge shall promulgate a Leon County duty judge assignment document so that a judge shall be available as directed in this administrative order to handle after-hours applications for search warrants and other emergency matters in Leon County, to include Risk Protection Orders.

2. The Leon County duty judge shall not be responsible for emergency matters in counties other than Leon County. Emergencies in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties shall be the responsibility of the local county judge or duly assigned circuit judge.

3. The Leon County duty judge shall be available by telephone to address emergency calls at all times during their rotation.

F. Cross-Assignments. All circuit judges and county judges in all counties of the Second Circuit are hereby cross-assigned to preside over any emergency within all counties of the circuit.

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VIII. EMERGENCY HEARINGS.

A. Emergency hearings are non-routine matters requiring immediate action by a judge to prevent physical harm, irreparable property damage, or a hardship of such a critical nature that swift intervention of the court is necessary.

B. A request for an emergency hearing shall be presented in writing to the judge assigned to the case.

C. If an assigned judge is unavailable in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties, other assigned circuit and county judges in that county shall be contacted to resolve the emergency. If the circuit and county judges are unavailable, the matter shall be referred to the Chief Judge.

D. If an assigned judge is unavailable in Leon County, and a duty judge has not been designated to address such an emergency, the request for an emergency hearing shall be referred to the Chief Judge.

IX. BACKUP AND SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS.

A. Circuit Judges. Each circuit judge of the Second Judicial Circuit is assigned to supplement and aid the county court in the county to which the circuit judge is assigned. Each circuit judge is also authorized to supplement and aid any other circuit or county judge in the circuit when the circuit judge or county judge is unavailable, requests assistance, or is assigned by the Chief Judge.

B. County Judges. County judges are temporarily assigned to supplement circuit court. County judges shall not be assigned to handle contested family law cases or child support cases except in an emergency.

C. Simplified Dissolution of Marriage Cases. County judges in each of the counties shall have jurisdiction over all simplified dissolution of marriage cases. Simplified dissolution of marriage cases may be filed in the Circuit Civil Division of the clerk's office in each county.

D. Jury Qualification.

1. Circuit judges assigned to Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties shall be responsible for qualifying the jury venire during their trial weeks.

2. County judges in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties shall qualify jurors during their trial weeks.

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3. Leon County judges shall qualify Leon County jurors on a rotating basis as determined by the Administrative Judge of the Leon County Court.

X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

A. Courtrooms and hearing rooms shall be assigned by the Office of Court Administration.

B. All judges assigned to new divisions will assume the case load previously assigned to the preceding judge, including all pending and scheduled hearings and trial dates and times.

C. Family cases include juvenile delinquency and dependency cases unless otherwise specified in this order.

D. Judges may agree among themselves to exchange duty weeks or otherwise arrange coverage with other judges in the Second Circuit.

E. Magistrates and Child Support Hearing Officers.

1. Magistrates assigned to Franklin, Jefferson, and Liberty Counties shall hear family cases with pro se parties, except uncontested family cases, juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights trials, juvenile delinquency, and protective injunctions.

2. Magistrates assigned to Gadsden and Wakulla Counties shall hear all family cases, except uncontested family cases, juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights trials, juvenile delinquency cases, and protective injunctions.

3. Magistrates assigned to Leon County shall hear family cases with pro se parties and all reopened family cases, except juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights trials, juvenile delinquency, and protective injunctions.

4. Circuit judges shall not individually refer cases to the Magistrate, except as directed or authorized by the administrative judge over circuit court family cases or the Chief Judge. The administrative magistrate, at his or her discretion, may refer cases back to the assigned circuit judge when any party is subsequently represented by an attorney.

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5. The IV-D Child Support Hearing Officers shall only hear Title IV-D child support and UFISA actions. The Magistrates are cross appointed as Hearing Officers. Upon the filing of any post judgment action where the sole issue is the enforcement or modification of non-Title IV-D child support, the action shall be automatically referred to the Magistrate sitting in his/her capacity as a Hearing Officer. See Administrative Order 2007-01, In Re: Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer.

ORDERED in chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 31st day of March 2022.

JONATHAN SJOSTROM
Chief Judge

Copies furnished to:
All Circuit and County Judges, Second Judicial Circuit
All Clerks of the Court, Second Judicial Circuit
State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit
Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit
Office of Court Administration, Second Judicial Circuit

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